

VLR-7/7/70 NRHP 9/15/70

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Gloucester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Abingdon Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Abingdon Parish Church

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
E side of Rt. 17, .6 mi. S of intersection with Rt. 614.

CITY OR TOWN:  
(White Marsh vic.)

STATE Virginia	CODE 45	COUNTY: Gloucester	CODE 073
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Vestry of Abingdon Church

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
White Marsh

STATE:  
Virginia

CODE:  
45

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Gloucester County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Gloucester

STATE:  
Virginia

CODE:  
45

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1928, 1937, 1939  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE:  
D. C.

CODE:  
08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built about 1755, Abingdon Parish Church is a one-story structure built on a Latin cross plan with gable roof, pedimented gable ends, and modillioned cornice. The brickwork is laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers above and below the beveled watertable. The three original doorways on the west, north, and south are framed by rubbed and molded brick designs, the north and south doorways having a triangular pediment and the main west entrance having a segmental arched pediment crowning the semicircular arched door opening below. Each of the arms of the cross has a single bay except the nave or west arm which has two bays; the windows have rubbed brick arches which are cut to allow for the wooden keystones in the window framing. Much of the sash is original.

The interior of Abingdon Parish Church is dominated by a large reredos about fifteen feet wide and seventeen feet high; it is presently located on a partition wall added in 1897 that cuts off the chancel. The wooden reredos, portions of which may be colonial, consists of a broken pediment with a pineapple set upon an urn at the center; the pediment rests on four fluted pilasters between which are the tablets. Although the pews in the two transept galleries are original, the other pews are modern.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century            |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Abingdon Parish was established about 1655 to serve the southeastern part of Gloucester County, formed in 1651. The present church is the second to bear the name; the first church was located near the present one, begun in 1754. The church was inactive in the early-1800's, perhaps as a result of the Disestablishment, and the Methodists seem to have used the building from 1818 to 1833. Anglican worship, however, was restored in 1826, and the church was repaired in 1841. The interior was badly damaged by Federal troops during the Civil War, and the repairs made about 1868 included new pews, floors for the aisles, a new pulpit, and a vesting room occupying the entire chancel. Further repairs were made in 1897, and some redecoration and repanelling were done in 1950.

In spite of the interior changes, Abingdon Church retains its beautiful exterior proportions and superb brickwork, and these assets, combined with its setting in a grove of walnut trees, make it one of the most appealing colonial churches in America.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Gloucester	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory  
1959 Federal  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C. Code: 08

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #36-1  
1969 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building  
Richmond, Virginia Code: 45

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Brock, Henry Irving, Colonial Churches in Virginia. Richmond, 1930.  
 Mason, George Carrington, Colonial Churches of Tidewater Virginia.  
 Richmond, 1945.  
 Mason, Polly Cary, Records of Colonial Gloucester County, Virginia. 2  
 Volumes. Berryville, Va., 1965 (reprint).  
 Rawlings, James Scott, Virginia's Colonial Churches. Richmond, 1963.  
 Rose, Harold Wickliffe, The Colonial Houses of Worship in America.  
 New York, 1963.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	37° 20' 05"	76° 30' 52"				
NE	37° 20' 05"	76° 30' 44"				
SE	37° 19' 56"	76° 30' 44"				
SW	37° 19' 56"	76° 30' 52"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **10 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: May 7, 1970

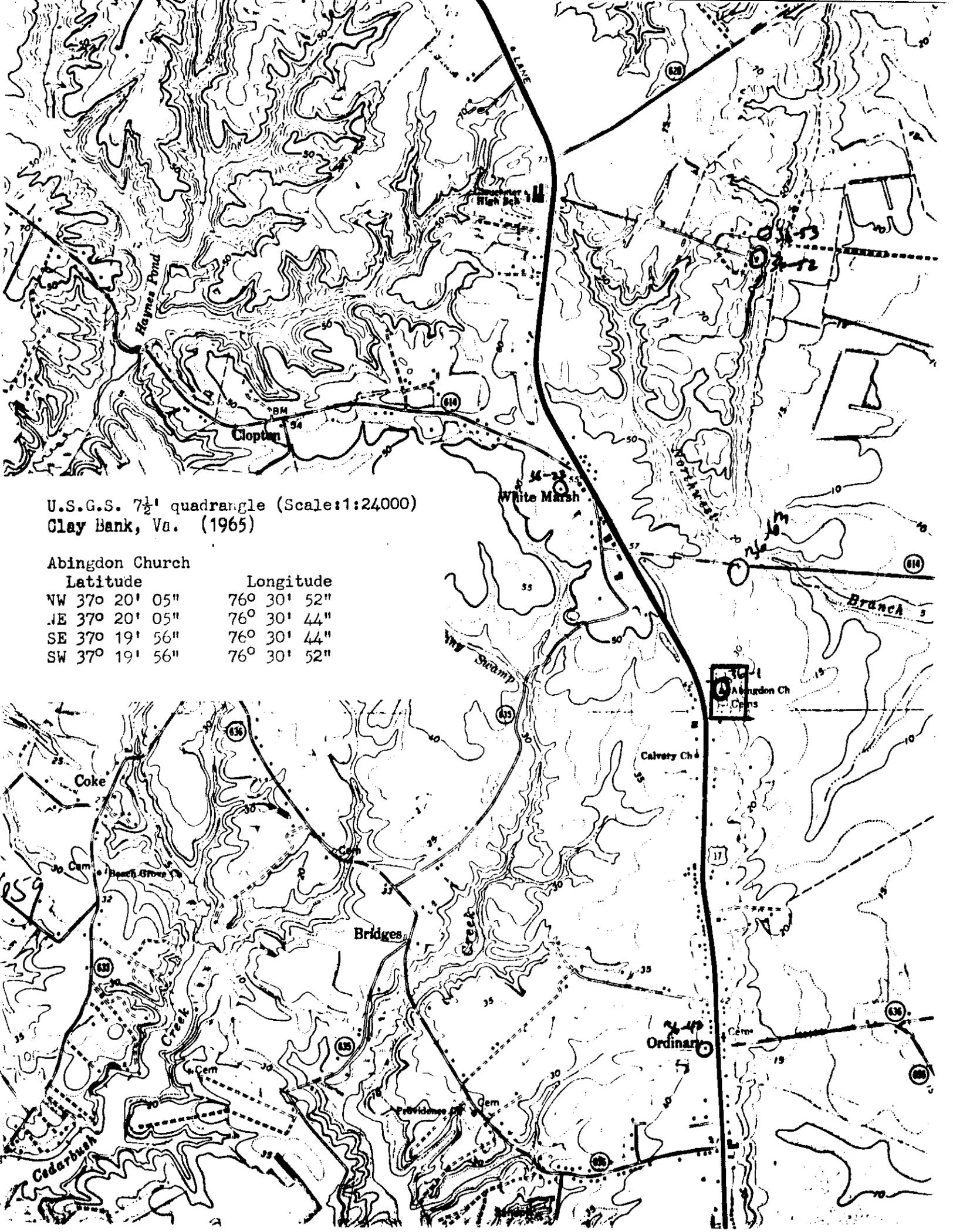
STREET AND NUMBER:  
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p><u>Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman</u>                  Title <u>Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission</u></p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____                  Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____                  Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (Scale:1:24000)  
 Clay Bank, Va. (1965)

Abingdon Church

Latitude	Longitude
NW 37° 20' 05"	76° 30' 52"
NE 37° 20' 05"	76° 30' 44"
SE 37° 19' 56"	76° 30' 44"
SW 37° 19' 56"	76° 30' 52"